

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1        A system for binding sheets into bound text bodies having respective  
2 spines exposed for adhesive application and characterized by multiple length  
3 dimensions and multiple thickness dimensions, the system comprising:

4        an adhesive dispenser configured to dispense across the thickness dimension  
5 of a text body spine solid sheet adhesive having one of multiple effective widths  
6 sized to correspond substantially to the length dimension of the text body spine.

1        2.        The system of claim 1, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2 dispense multiple segments of solid sheet adhesive along the length dimension of the  
3 text body spine.

1        3.        The system of claim 2, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2 dispense solid sheet adhesive segments of different widths.

1        4.        The system of claim 2, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2 dispense solid sheet adhesive segments of the same width.

1        5.        The system of claim 2, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2 dispense at least one solid sheet adhesive segment independently of the other solid  
3 sheet adhesive segments.

1        6.        The system of claim 5, wherein the adhesive dispenser comprises a  
2 roller system for dispensing the multiple segments of solid sheet adhesive.

1        7.        The system of claim 6, wherein the roller system comprises a drive  
2 shaft supporting multiple drive rollers.

1        8.        The system of claim 7, wherein the adhesive dispenser comprises a  
2 motor for driving the drive shaft, and a clutch disposed between a pair of drive  
3 rollers enables one or both drive rollers of the drive roller pair to be driven  
4 selectively by the motor.

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1           9.     The system of claim 2, further comprising an adhesive quantity  
2     interrogator configured to obtain indications of the length of each solid sheet  
3     adhesive segment remaining in a plug-in cartridge housing.

1           10.    The system of claim 9, further comprising a controller configured to  
2     transmit a warning message when any of the solid sheet adhesive segments is nearly  
3     spent.

1           11.    The system of claim 2, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2     dispense multiple segments of solid sheet adhesive along the length dimension of the  
3     text body spine simultaneously.

1           12.    The system of claim 2, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured to  
2     dispense multiple segments of solid sheet adhesive along the length dimension of the  
3     text body spine sequentially.

1           13.    The system of claim 12, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured  
2     to position a plug-in cartridge housing containing a roll of solid sheet adhesive at  
3     multiple locations along the length dimension of the text body spine.

1           14.    The system of claim 1, wherein the adhesive dispenser comprises a  
2     width cutter for cutting solid sheet adhesive to an effective width substantially  
3     corresponding to the length dimension of the text body spine.

1           15.    The system of claim 14, wherein the adhesive dispenser further  
2     comprises a length cutter for cutting the solid sheet adhesive to a length at least as  
3     large as the thickness dimension of the text body spine.

1           16.    The system of claim 15, wherein the adhesive dispenser is configured  
2     to advance the solid sheet adhesive beyond the location cut by the width cutter, and  
3     to cut across the solid sheet adhesive with the length cutter to prepare a clean  
4     leading edge for a subsequent sheet binding.

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1 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the adhesive dispenser comprises a  
2 waste reservoir configured to store excess solid sheet adhesive cut by the width  
3 cutter.

1 18. A method of binding sheets into bound text bodies having respective  
2 spines exposed for adhesive application and characterized by multiple length  
3 dimensions and multiple thickness dimensions, the method comprising:  
4 dispensing across the thickness dimension of a text body spine solid sheet  
5 adhesive having one of multiple effective widths sized to correspond substantially to  
6 the length dimension of the text body spine.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein multiple segments of solid sheet  
2 adhesive are dispensed along the length dimension of the text body spine.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein solid sheet adhesive is cut to an  
2 effective width substantially corresponding to the length dimension of the text body  
3 spine.

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